

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 13, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Father Mike Maginot – St. Stephen Martyr Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

A request for a large gathering permit was presented for Karma Tobacco Cigar Bar event. Sheila Shine provided the staff report for the request. Discussion followed reminding applicants to allow sufficient time for the review and consideration of such requests. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated September 13, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2016. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit provided an update regarding the preparation of the 2017 Budget.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Information for the Town acceptance of road improvements in Prairie Point Apartments Phase 4 Subdivision was presented. Mr. Spires reviewed the details. Discussion followed. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron said there will be an insurance meeting September 20, 2016.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac was provided a letter from Peace United Church that discussed the organization of a yearly event to honor and pray for first responders. A representative from the church came forward and presented the information to the Town Council. Discussion followed regarding the event details as well as advertisement options. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve a donation of \$250 toward a prayer breakfast. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich announced that the Fall/Winter brochure is available and that the programs are starting. Ms. Orlich fulfilled a request from a family with a disabled child for a tot swing to be installed at Kurtis Park. President Hardaway requested the same type swing to be installed at Meadowland for a family with a disabled child. Ms. Orlich provided an update regarding park maintenance, repairing and/or replacing various park equipment and signage. She thanked those involved with assisting in this matter. Further discussion took place regarding the status of signage posted at each park location.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron referred to Matt Lake for a report. Mr. Lake said they are preparing for an IDEM audit which will take place next week to evaluate the Towns compliance with Rule 13. Documentation is being prepared for FEMA community rating system renewal which will maintain lower flood insurance premiums for all of Merrillville residents. Mr. Lake provided an update from the National StormCon Annual conference he recently attended. An Easement Agreement has been prepared and will be sent to the Merrillville School Board for the next major improvements project. Mr. Lake thanked those involved with the Rain Garden workshop and the planting of a rain garden at the Stormwater Resource Center.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca said the Christmas Holiday Parade will be Friday, December 2, 2016 at 6 p.m. The parade will start at MIS School and travel to the Pruzin Center.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit mentioned that at the next Town Council meeting there will be a recommendation of tax abatement for prime conveyor. Mr. Spires will have a resolution in place for this matter.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES: President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-26: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Unsafe Blighted Property fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-22: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Merrillville, Indiana amending Storm Water Utility user fees and policies for the Town of Merrillville, Indiana. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-24: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Motor Vehicle Highway fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-25: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the General fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 16-28: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget within certain categories. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit made a motion to bring back BZA Case #Z35E8-0716. Mr. Pettit said he was not in attendance at the Town Council meeting held on August 9th when this case was presented and voted upon.

Petitioner:	Tom Dress
Owner:	Paul Nelson
Request:	Special exception approval from section 21-136
Purpose:	For proposed used car dealership
Location:	7582 East Lincoln Highway
Zoning:	C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #:	Z35E8-0716
Conditions:	No additional paving of property, only seal coating on existing paving For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mr. Pettit stated this location is within his Ward and that he is in favor of the request. Discussion followed as to reconsider the matter. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Case #Z35E8-0716 with the listed conditions. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Environmental Resource Committee meeting, September 15, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Personnel Policy & Employee Benefits Committee meeting, September 20, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Plan Commission meeting, September 20, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Abandoned Blighted Properties meeting, September 22, 2016 at 1:00 a.m.
Town Council meeting, September 27, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.